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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/776,788	02/05/2001	Kevin Kwong-Tai Chung	AI-TECH-20	1588

110 7590 02/07/2005

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN
1601 MARKET STREET
SUITE 2400
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307

EXAMINER

MOONEYHAM, JANICE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 02/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/776,788

Applicant(s)

CHUNG, KEVIN KWONG-TAI

Examiner

Jan Mooneyham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 February 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-69 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-69 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the applicant's communication filed on February 5, 2001. Claims 1-69 are currently pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on February 5, 2001 is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 68 is objected to because of the following informalities: There is a typo as to what claim 68 reads on. The applicant has the claim reading on claim 48 instead of 68. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 37 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear what the applicant is trying to claim in claim 37.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-5, 7-17, 20-28, 30-36, 41, 45-59, and 65-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sehr (US 6,609,659).

Regarding Claims 1, and 13:

Sehr discloses a registration apparatus associated with a premises comprising:

a processor and a memory operably coupled thereto (Fig. 1 (14), col. 5, lines 18-63);

a user interface including a display for displaying registration information relating to the premises and a data entry for entering user information, said user interface being operably coupled to said processor for coupling the registration information and the user information there between, (Fig. 1 -Card Station. Col. 9, lines 8-18)

a card issuing device for providing an access card having a card memory, said card issuing device being operably coupled to said processor for coupling information related to the registration information and the user information to be stored in the card memory of the access card for enabling access related to the premises (Fig. 1 – Travel Center (2), col. 4, lines 50-54 and col. 10, lines 7-26); and

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at least one access device adapted for enabling access to at least one portion of the premises responsive to the information stored in the memory of the access card (Access control modules (111) (112), Fig. 2, col. 11, lines 8-26).

Regarding Claims 2 and 14:

Sehr discloses a registration apparatus wherein the registration information relates to at least one of rooms, areas, facilities and services at the premises and at least one of the status and availability of same (col. 33, lines 30-34).

Regarding Claims 3 and 15:

Sehr discloses a registration apparatus wherein the user information includes selection of at least one of rooms, areas, facilities and services at the premises (col. 33, lines 30-36).

Regarding Claims 4 and 16:

Sehr discloses a registration apparatus wherein said card issuing device includes a card writer for writing information to the card memory of the access card (col. 6, lines 22-39 and 45-48).

Regarding Claims 5 and 17:

Sehr discloses a registration apparatus wherein the card memory is one of a magnetic stripe and an electronic memory Fig. 1 (11), col. 6, lines 22-32).

Regarding Claim 7:

Sehr discloses a registration apparatus in combination with at least one access device adapted for enabling access responsive to the information stored in the memory of the access card (col. 11, lines 8-30, col 38, lines 2-22 (electronic key)

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Regarding Claims 8, 20, 21, and 22:

Sehr discloses a registration apparatus in combination with a property management system providing at least part of the registration information, wherein said property system is run on said processor, and wherein said at least one access device is operably coupled to one of said processor and said property management system (col. 11, lines 8-30, col. 38, lines 2-22).

Regarding Claims 9 and 23:

Sehr discloses a registration apparatus wherein the user information includes at least one of personal information, credit information, identifying information, loyalty program information and selection of at least one of rooms, areas, facilities and services at the premises (col. 14, lines 19-51).

Regarding Claim 10:

Sehr discloses a registration apparatus wherein the information related to the registration information and the user information includes an identifier of at least one of rooms, areas, facilities and services at the premises for which access using the access card is authorized (col. 8, lines 9-40, col. 19, lines 40-43, col. 33, lines 29-39, col. 37, line 54 thru col. 38, line 22, identification numbers of transportation services and carriers and confirmation numbers).

Regarding Claims 11, 26, 46 and 58:

Sehr discloses a registration apparatus wherein at least one of the registration information and the user information includes, at least in part, information communicated to said processor from a source external to said registration

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apparatus via a communication link (Figs. 1-2 (service providers), col. 4, line 33 thru col. 5, line 17).

Referring to Claims 12, 27, 47 and 59:

Sehr discloses a registration apparatus wherein said communication link (16) includes one of a network, telephone and the Internet Col. 7, lines 22-30.

Regarding Claim 24:

Sehr discloses a registration system in combination with means coupled to said user interface and responsive to a credit card for effecting at least one of credit verification, credit authorization, billing and payment (col. 1, lines 14-20 and 33-37, col. 4, line 66 thru col. 5, line 6, col. 7, line 59 thru col. 8, line 3, col. 10, lines 27-51, Fig. 2 Banking Module (26)).

Regarding Claim 25:

Sehr discloses a registration system wherein said means for effecting is responsive to a smart card credit card and/or a magnetic stripe credit card Fig. 2, col. 10, lines 26-57).

Regarding Claim 28:

Sehr discloses a registration system wherein the at least one access device includes a given electronic lock providing selective access to a given portion of the premises, and wherein the information stored in the card memory of a given access card is for enabling access to that given portion during a predetermined period of time, said given electronic lock including a clock for providing the selective access to the given portion only during the

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predetermined period of time (col. 12, lines 1-25 (tickets contain time-stamped information making a clock inherent, col. 38, lines 9-22).

Regarding Claim 30:

Sehr discloses a registration system wherein the access card is a loyalty card (col. 7, lines 51-59 – loyalty and frequent traveling programs, col. 8, lines 40-47 (points), col. 10, lines 57-67 (points) and col. 14, lines 56-65 (loyalty programs, frequent traveler or shopper points).

Regarding Claim 32:

Sehr discloses a registration system wherein said premises includes at least one of a hotel, motel, resort, lodging and hospitality facility, and wherein said at least one access device includes at least an electronic lock for a room (col. 33, lines 30-36 and col. 38, lines 9-23).

Regarding Claim 33:

Sehr discloses a registration system in combination with a property management system providing registration information relating to availability of rooms (col. 33, lines 30-34).

Regarding Claim 34:

Sehr discloses a registration system wherein said user interface further includes means for providing a tangible receipt (Fig. 1 (15) printer, col. 7, lines 16-21).

Regarding Claim 35:

Sehr discloses a registration system in combination with a property management system providing charge information relating to charges to an account, wherein insertion of one of the access cards related to a given

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account into said user interface causes the property management system to provide charge information related to the given account and causes said means for providing to provide the tangible receipt including the charge information (printer (15)) (col. 6, lines 16-21, col. 6, lines 16-21, col. 40, lines 52-63).

Regarding Claim 36:

Sehr discloses an electronic registration system associated with a premises including a number of spaces, said system comprising;

at least one processor and at least one memory operably coupled thereto (Fig. 1 (14), col. 5, lines 18-63);

a property management system including a computer program stored in said at least one memory and operating in conjunction with said at least one processor (Fig. 1 (Service Providers), col. 33, lines 31-42);

a plurality of electronic access devices each adapted for enabling access to one of the spaces of the premises responsive to information stored in the card memory of an access card (Col. 38, lines 9-22);

an access control system including a computer program stored in said at least one memory and operating in conjunction with said at least one processor for defining access parameters for said plurality of electronic access devices (Col. 11, lines 8-26, col. 12, lines 1-26);

a user interface operably coupled to said at least one processor and said property management system for registering a user in relation to at least a

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given one of the spaces of the premises (Fig. 1 Card Station, col. 9, lines 8-18, col. 33, lines 31-34); and

a card issuing device operably coupled to said at least one processor for storing registration information from said property management system and access parameters from said access control system in the card memory of a given access card for providing the given access card in response to registering a user for the given space, the given access card enabling at least one of said plurality of electronic access devices for access to the given space (Fig. 1 (Travel Center (2), col. 4, lines 50-54, col. 10, lines 7-26, col. 38, lines 9-22).

Regarding Claim 41:

Sehr discloses an electronic registration system wherein the access card is a loyalty card adapted for storing registration information relating to a plurality of registrations (col. 7, lines 51-59, col. 8, lines 40-47, col. 10, lines 57-67, col. 14, lines 56-65).

Regarding Claim 45 and 65:

Sehr disclose an electronic registration system wherein at least ones of said plurality of electronic access devices are operably coupled to said at least one processor (Figs. 1 and 2).

Regarding Claim 48:

Sehr discloses a method for registering a user comprising:
providing a user terminal (Fig. 1 – Card Station);
providing a plurality of electronic access devices each operable responsive to an access card having certain information stored in a memory

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thereof to provide access to a facility or facilities (Fig. 2, col. 8, lines 8-26);

entering and displaying registration information using the user terminal (col. 9, lines 8-18);

allowing the user to use the user terminal to change the registration information (Col. 8, lines 56 thru col. 9, line 25 – manipulate the contents of cards);

allowing the user to use the user terminal to select the facility or facilities to which the user is to have access (col. 8, line 65 thru col. 10, line 6, col. 33, lines 31-34);

storing information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities into a computer (col. 8, lines 65 thru col. 10, lines 6);

storing certain information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities into the memory of the access card (col. 8, line 65 thru col. 10, line 6); and

providing the access card with the certain information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities stored in the memory thereof, whereby the access card may be used with the electronic access devices to gain access to the facility or facilities (col. 8, line 65 thru col. 10, line 6, col. 11, line 21-26, col. 38, lines 9-22).

Regarding Claim 49:

Sehr discloses a method wherein after the access card has been used in at least one

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electronic access device which stores use information in the memory of the access card, further comprising:

placing the access card operably proximate the user terminal for reading the use information stored in the card memory thereof (col. 6, lines 45-57, col. 8, line 65 thru col. 10, line 18); and

completing a transaction using the information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities stored in the computer and the use information from the access card (col. 8, line 65 thru col. 9, line 25).

Regarding Claim 50:

Sehr discloses the method wherein said completing the transaction includes at least one of effecting billing and/or payment and providing a tangible receipt containing information relating to the transaction (col. 1, lines 14-27, col. 2, lines 52-57, col. 4, line 66 thru col. 5, line 6, col. 7, lines 16-21 and 9-64, col. 10, lines 27-55).

Regarding Claim 51:

Sehr discloses a method wherein said entering includes at least one of placing a credit card operably proximate the user terminal and entering credit information for initiating a credit transaction, and wherein said displaying includes displaying information relating to the credit transaction (col. 10, lines 27-55).

Regarding Claim 52:

Sehr discloses a method wherein the credit transaction includes at least one of

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verifying credit, authorizing credit, billing, and payment (col. 4, line 66 thru col. 5, line 6, col. 10, lines 27-55).

Regarding Claim 53:

Sehr discloses a method wherein said storing certain information and said providing an access card include: placing a loyalty card operably proximate the user terminal, storing the certain information in a memory of the loyalty card as an access card, and providing the loyalty card as the access card (col. 7, lines 53-59, col. 8, lines 40-51, col. 10, lines 57-67).

Regarding Claim 54;

Sehr discloses a method wherein said entering registration information includes at least one of communicating information from a property management system, obtaining information from a credit card, communicating information with a billing/payment system, and communicating information with a personnel management system (col. 32, line 4 thru col. 44, line 53, col. 33, lines 17-20 and 31-50, col. 37, lines 65 thru 38, line 9)

Regarding Claim 55:

Sehr discloses a method wherein said entering and displaying includes obtaining at least part of the registration information from a source external to said user terminal (Fig. 1 – Service Providers).

Regarding Claim 56:

Sehr discloses a method wherein said obtaining includes communicating

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pre-registration information via one of a network, telephone and the Internet (col. 1, lines 45 thru 78, col. 4, lines 44-49, col. 7, lines 22-30).

Regarding Claim 57:

Sehr discloses a time recording and access control system associated with a premises including a number of spaces, said system comprising.

at least one processor and at least one memory operably coupled thereto (Fig. 1):

a plurality of electronic access devices each adapted for enabling access to one of the spaces of the premises responsive to the information stored in the card memory of an access card (Figs 1-3 Smart Card);

an access control system including a computer program stored in said at least one memory and operating in conjunction with said at least one processor for defining access parameters (correct time, date and location) for said plurality of electronic access devices (Fig. 3 (Access control) col. 11, lines 8-26, col. 12, lines 16-20)

a user interface (Fig. 1) operably coupled to said at least one processor and said property management system for registering a user in relation to at least a given one of the spaces of the premises (col. 33, lines 30-39),

a card issuing device operably coupled to said at least one processor for storing registration information from said user interface and access parameters from said access control system in the card memory of a given access card for providing the given access card in response to registering a user, the given access card enabling at least one of said plurality of electronic

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access devices for access to the given space (Fig. 1 (Travel Center), col. 4, lines 50-54, col. 10, lines 7-26); and

at least one time clock station including a clock for providing time information and responsive to the given access card for recording information relating to the given access card (col. 12, lines 1-25 – time-stamped information).

Regarding Claim 66:

Sehr discloses a storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer instructions for registering a user using a user terminal comprising.

means for causing the computer to enter and display registration information on a user terminal (col. 8, line 65 thru col. 9, line 25);

means for causing the computer to allow the user to use the user terminal to change the registration information (col. 8, line 65 thru col. 9, line 25);

means for causing the computer to allow the user to use the user terminal to select a facility or facilities to which the user is to have access (col. 8, line 65 thru col. 9, line 25);

means for causing the computer to store information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities into the computer (col. 8, line 65 thru col. 9, line 25),

means for causing the computer to store certain information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities into the memory of an access card in format adapted for operating an electronic access device

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associated with the selected facility or facilities (col. 8, line 65 thru col. 9, line 25); and

means for causing the computer to provide the access card with the certain information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities stored in the memory thereof (col. 8, line 65 thru col. 9, line 25), whereby the access card is adapted to be used with an electronic access device to gain access to the selected facility or facilities (col. 11, lines 8-26).

Regarding Claim 67:

Sehr discloses a storage medium wherein said means for causing the computer to enter and display registration information includes communicating credit information with one of a credit card having a memory and a computer billing/payment system (col. 1, lines 14-20 and 33-37, col. 4, line 66 thru col. 5, line 6, col. 14, lines 19-51, col. 7, line 59 thru col. 8, line 3, col. 10, lines 27-51).

Regarding Claim 68:

Sehr discloses a storage medium wherein said means for causing the computer to enter and display registration information includes means for causing the computer to obtain at least part of the registration information from a source external to said computer (Fig. 1 Service Providers).

Regarding Claim 69:

Sehr discloses a storage medium wherein said means for causing the computer to obtain includes communicating pre-registration information via one of a network, telephone and the Internet (Col. 7, lines 22-30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 6, 18, 19, 44 and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sehr in view of Hohle et al (US 6,101, 477) (hereinafter referred to as Hohle).

Regarding Claims 6, 18, 44 and 64:

Sehr does not disclose a registration apparatus in combination with at least one access card wherein the access card is one of a magnetic stripe card having a magnetic memory stripe and a smart card having a processor and an electronic memory.

However, Hohle discloses a registration apparatus in combination with at least one access card wherein the access card is one of a magnetic stripe card having a magnetic memory stripe and a smart card having a processor and an electronic memory (col. 1, lines 24-60).

It would have been obvious to incorporate into the disclosure of Sehr the teaching of Hohle since these cards securely and conveniently integrate important travel related information, for example airline, hotel, rental car, and payment related applications, while providing space and security.

Regarding Claims 19

Hohle discloses a registration system in combination with a plurality of access cards wherein the access card is one of a contact-type smart card and a wireless-type smart card (col. 3, lines 1-5).

7. Claims 29, 31, 37-40, 42-43, and 60-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sehr in view of Lee (US 5,204,663).

Regarding Claim 29:

Sehr does not disclose the registration system of claim 13 wherein worker-related information is stored in the card memory of the access card, in combination with at least one time-clock station responsive to the worker-related information for recording at least time information relating to a worker.

However, Lee discloses the registration wherein worker-related information is stored in the card memory of the access card, in combination with at least one time-clock station responsive to the worker-related information for recording at least time information relating to a worker (col. 2, lines 3-25, col. 4, lines 16-27, Fig. 4 (600)).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate into the disclosure of Sehr the teaching of Lee to allow a hotel to provide different access codes corresponding to different security levels to be provided to the guest, security officers, housekeeping supervisors and maids and to allow for transaction information

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representing the activities of the individuals associated with entry to the access controlled areas such as the time of entry, frequency of entry and the identity of the user to be recorded.

Regarding Claim 31:

Lee discloses a registration system wherein the access card includes at least one of an accessible memory into which information can be stored and a secure memory storing unchangeable information for providing one of different levels of access and security (col. 1, line 64 thru col. 2, line 37, col. 3, line 59 thru col. 4, line 26, col. 5, lines 8-10).

Regarding Claim 37 and 60:

Lee discloses an electronic registration system further comprising a personnel management system including a computer program stored in said at least one memory and operating in conjunction with said at least one processor for defining parameters relating to at least one worker, wherein said card issuing device issues a second given access card having parameters relating to a given worker of the at least one worker stored in the card memory thereof (col. 1, line 64 thru col. 2, line 37, col. 3, line 59 thru col. 4, line 26, col. 5, lines 8-10).

Regarding Claim 38:

Lee discloses the electronic registration system of comprising at least one time clock station responsive to the second given access card for recording information stored therein (col. 5, lines 54-62, col. 6, lines 31-33).

Regarding Claim 39 and 61:

Lee discloses an electronic registration system wherein said at least one time

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clock station records the information relating to the second given access card in one of the card memory of the second given access card and a memory included in said time clock station (col. 6, lines 31-33, Fig. 4 (600)).

Regarding Claim 40 and 62:

Lee discloses an electronic registration system wherein said second access card has information stored in its card memory for enabling predetermined ones of said electronic access devices for access to predetermined ones of the spaces at the premises (col. 1, line 64 thru col. 2, line 37, col. 3, line 59 thru col. 4, line 26, col. 5, lines 8-10)..

Regarding Claim 42

Lee discloses an electronic registration system wherein said plurality of electronic access devices include an electronic lock having a clock therein providing time information (col. 5, lines 54-60).

Regarding Claim 43 and 63:

Lee discloses an electronic registration system wherein said electronic lock either compares time information from the access card to time information from said clock or records time information from said clock in at least one of the card memory and a memory in said electronic lock, or both (col. 5, lines 54-60, col. 6, lines 31-33).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Smart Card Handbook discloses the types and usage of smart cards and general information regarding magnetic stripe cards and chip cards.

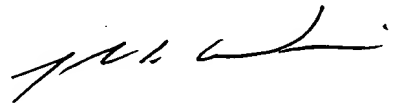
GB 2 351 379 discloses the application of smart cards as related to the travel industry.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jan Mooneyham whose telephone number is (703) 305-8554. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JM



JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600